



Dulles Direct Newsletter July 2013

Welcome to the July edition of the Dulles Direct Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. In this month's newsletter, I'll tell you how you can ensure that major new amenities in the Dulles District get built, provide an update on my efforts to see the missing link of Loudoun County Parkway built, and address some other ongoing issues in the County.

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES

Dulles South Multipurpose Center Expansion To Be Decided by Voters This Fall

Following Board action this month, the last step for a major, 80,000 square foot two-phase expansion of the Dulles South Multipurpose Center (DSMPC) is voter approval this November. The Board voted to place four bond questions on the ballot for projects including DSMPC expansion. The Finance Committee accepted my amendment to merge both phases of DSMPC—an indoor recreation center and a senior center—into one question on this year's ballot, even though construction funds won't be expended for the senior center until next year.

To review, Phase II of the project will add a 65,000 square foot addition consisting of a full gymnasium, fitness center, indoor running track, and a competition and a leisure pool. The County has already received \$19 million in developer proffers for the project, leaving a remaining balance of \$17 million for capital costs. Once built, the facility will be revenue-neutral because the cost of operations will be covered by fees. I pushed for inclusion of this project in the FY2014 budget because so many Dulles South residents currently travel across the County to Claude Moore, or pay higher rates to use Cub Run in Fairfax.

Phase III of DSMPC will be a full senior center, to replace the two classrooms that the seniors have in the current facility. The existing space is operating at capacity, and there is only one bus to pick up seniors because there is no room for any others to attend the daily programs. Seniors

are a growing segment of our population, and I think they should have a proper place to go on a daily basis as they do in other parts of the County. The cost of the facility will not exceed \$6.4 million, which is a fraction of the cost of just one elementary school.

Both of these projects fit within the fiscal guidelines set by Loudoun County. They are funded within the existing planned debt capacity, so there will be no need to raise taxes above current rates to pay for them. If you support these projects, it is imperative that you vote yes on the bond referendum to allow them to move forward. If approved, I expect Phase II to open in 2015 and Phase III in 2016.

Also included in the same question will be upgrades for athletic fields and an expansion of Lovettsville Community Park in the northwest part of Loudoun. The funds for athletic field improvements will bring fields with the lowest condition ratings up to minimum standards. In our area, that means improvements to the fields at Liberty, Buffalo Trail, Arcola, Legacy and Creighton's Corner elementary schools. Each of these school fields are utilized by sports leagues. This is a one-time expenditure to irrigate and treat fields so that with proper maintenance, they will flourish.

Another question on the ballot will deal with schools, including needs in Dulles South. The Board of Supervisors and the School Board are requesting \$10.8 million to construct additions to Freedom High School and Mercer Middle School, increasing capacity to 1,800 students and 1,350 students, respectively. In addition to saving money by pushing back new school construction, these additions will allow for better planning in both the Freedom and Champe clusters, with appropriate sizing for both high schools and middle schools. These projects are combined with upgrades to Loudoun County High School in Leesburg.

There are two other bond questions approved by the Board. One is for \$3.2 million to cover the design costs of widening Belmont Ridge Road between Gloucester Parkway and Hay Road and Truro Parish and Croson Lane in Ashburn, and the other is to fund fire/rescue apparatus and a new fire station in Lucketts. Each of these expenditures has been thoroughly vetted and approved by the Board.

I will be constantly reminding you about the upcoming bond referendum up until election day. I've done all that I can do to make these projects a reality—now I need you to come out and vote to support them!

Loudoun County Parkway a Focus of the Board's Transportation Summit

On July 18, the Board of Supervisors held a transportation summit to review major issues related to Metro and to discuss our transportation priorities.

I've been very pleased with the progress made by this Board on transportation. We've made unprecedented investments in road construction, and three of my top four priority projects—Route 606, Braddock and Pleasant Valley, and Tall Cedars Parkway—are now funded and underway.

However, the one that is not funded is the missing piece of Loudoun County Parkway. In fact, we really haven't been able to make any progress on it, and I've become frustrated. So my goal at the Transportation Summit was to get the situation out on the table for the rest of the Board and to gain consensus that we need to act as a body to get this project moving.

By way of background, the missing piece of LCP is broken up into two sections. Both are proffered by developers. The first and more expensive piece is proffered by Brambleton, and the second is proffered by Toll Brothers (as part of Loudoun Valley Estates). Toll Brothers does not have to construct their section until Brambleton does theirs.

Brambleton's proffer sits with an approved rezoning from 2007 to build an Active Adult retirement community. However, Brambleton is no longer planning to build it to the scale needed to trigger the proffer. Therefore, LCP hasn't moved forward.

Brambleton has filed another rezoning with the County—actually five separate applications—to change their proffers to construct LCP in return for permission to build about 800 new residential units and convert 500 Active Adult units to single family. The applications have just been filed and won't even be heard by the Board of Supervisors until next summer, at the earliest. Prior to the Board's decision, they will go through a full legislative review by staff and the Planning Commission. I have not reviewed these applications and won't until more analysis takes place, so I can't speak to their merit.

However, I can tell you that I don't want to wait another whole year before we begin to even possibly see action on Loudoun County Parkway.

After discussing these issues, as well as how vital the road is, the Board agreed to ask County staff to obtain concrete cost estimates for constructing the first phase, as well as funding options. Even if the County does construct LCP ourselves, we could still possibly be repaid by Brambleton if their rezoning application is approved or if they ever trigger the existing proffer. However, with the pace of development that is already occurring, the missing link is needed more and more every day. I will continue to provide updates about cost and the options considered by the Board to get this project moving.

The Board discussed a variety of other transportation issues at the meeting, including a close look at the funds we expect to have available as a result of our own budgeting and the state's transportation bill. Overall, over the next five years, Loudoun is estimated to have about \$375 million for road construction—funds we must use wisely.

We also discussed adjustments being made to the commuter bus system to shift some of the existing West Falls Church LC Transit service to other Metro stations once Phase I of the Silver Line opens. Since there is no service currently from Dulles South, this won't affect many in the Dulles District. However, this fall we will be discussing new transit bus routes, and I plan on pushing for service from the Eastgate Park and Ride lot that will be opening in 2014 to Wiehle Avenue. Stay tuned. Also, with the County's gas tax revenue being diverted to Metro when Phase II opens, we will no longer be able to subsidize long haul bus service. Therefore, we

agreed to pursue a four-year gradual phase in of cost recovery, which should not exceed about \$1 per year. We'll also be discussing this further when we take an in-depth look at bus service in the fall.

Finally, we looked at the connections needed to accommodate Metro service in Loudoun in 2018/2019. It appears that most major connections will be put in place by developers who are currently building or about to build projects around the stations. However, we'll need to closely monitor progress. For now, the County is planning two parking garages at the 772 (Shellhorn) station and one at 606, on the north side near the existing Dulles North Transit Center. At the summit, the Board agreed to pursue an additional garage on the south side of 606 to accommodate traffic from the 50 corridor and Prince William County. I'll discuss more about parking garages below.

Funding Secured for Providence Ridge Turn Lane on Gum Spring Road

I received a letter from the Providence Ridge Community informing me of their safety concerns due to a lack of a right-hand turn lane into their community when traveling northbound on Gum Spring Road. Currently, this is the only subdivision on Gum Spring Road without a right turn lane allowing a safe deceleration area for residents and school buses. In researching this issue, it was discovered that at the time Providence Ridge was constructed (as a by-right community), plans for the widening of Gum Spring Road had already been approved for construction by another developer without the turn lane. The developer of Providence Ridge did contribute funds for frontage improvements, but the plans were never amended to include a turn lane. To remedy this issue, I brought forward an item that uses the original proffer funds from Providence Ridge plus those from several other projects to design and construct a right turn lane at Providence Ridge Drive at an estimated cost of \$300,000. The Board unanimously approved my request.



Supervisor Letourneau with Akhil Rekulapelli and his family.

Stone Hill Student Places 4th in National Geographic Bee

I was pleased to welcome Akhil Rekulapelli and his family to the Board Room on July 17th. Akhil is a Loudoun Valley Estates resident and Stone Hill Middle School student. Akhil was presented with a Resolution of Commendation from the Board of Supervisors, recognizing his fourth place finish in the National Geographic Bee. He placed first in the Virginia Geographic Bee, which enabled him to compete against students from all fifty states and territories at the national bee in May. Akhil's fourth place finish earned him a \$1000 cash prize and an additional \$500 for placing in the top ten. Started in 1989, the Bee tests students' knowledge of various geographic categories including culture, economics, plants, animals, and many other facets. The Bee is open to students in fourth through eighth grade. Congratulations Akhil!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Metro Phase II

It has been just over a year since the Board voted to opt-in to Phase Two of the Silver Line. Since that time, the first part of the project has gone out to bid, and came in at \$420 million under budget. On the County side, planning has intensified to make sure we are ready—starting with parking garages. There are three garages currently under consideration—two at Route 772 (1,433 spaces in the north garage, 1,540 spaces in the south) and one at Route 606 (1,965 spaces). We have three options to get them built: embark on a public-private partnership with a developer, build them ourselves, or return them to the overall Dulles Rail Corridor Project to be built by MWAA (which will increase our share of the overall project cost by \$8 million).

There are pros and cons to each approach, and that's part of our consideration. Thus far, the Board went out with a preliminary RFI and received three responses. While some were more attractive than others, each had some flaws. However, the process was a success because they allowed us to narrow down our criteria and establish that there was some private sector interest in development. Now, we will issue a more detailed RFQ and evaluate those responses before deciding a path forward.

Fire and Rescue System Reforms

You may have seen some headlines last week regarding the embezzlement of \$645,000 by the former Treasurer of the Aldie Volunteer Fire Department. This unfortunate incident puts an exclamation point on the work that the Board has already done to begin the process of reforming the combined Loudoun County Fire-Rescue system. There are unique challenges to a combined system, which means that career and volunteer personnel share responsibilities. We are fortunate in Loudoun to have volunteers that respond to about 40 percent of the calls for service each year. These volunteers receive the same training and have the same certifications as the career staff. However, this number is dropping every year and will continue to drop as it becomes harder and harder to recruit volunteers and the needs of the system grow.

Currently, the structure is such that there are two separate command structures for career and volunteer staff. Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors authorized a task force led by the

County Administrator and asked the Government Reform Commission to make recommendations regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

The recommendations made by both groups were sound. We need a defined discipline process that can be applied evenly to all members of the system, both career and volunteer, better oversight of expenditures by the volunteer companies, and, most of all, a Combined System Director that is accountable for the entire system. Right now, there are 23 different Fire and Rescue Chiefs that all have equal rank—one for each volunteer company, plus the career chief. In the Loudoun County of today, this system just doesn't make sense.

Tough decisions will need to be made about funding allocations and the investment needed to ensure that we have a viable system. However, the Board has now started the process to make these changes and ensure that the system will be well positioned for the future.

EMS Billing

Speaking of changes, another significant change underway by the Board is implementation of fees for EMS service. Loudoun County is currently the only jurisdiction in the Greater Washington area that does not charge fees for EMS service. As such, insurance carriers and Medicare have already built the fees into the premiums that citizens pay—so right now you are paying insurance rates that assume there is a charge for EMS service, but the County is not actually receiving any funds.

The County hired a consultant to review best practices and make recommendations for implementation of this system. The proposed fees are as follows: \$467 for Basic Life Support, \$660 for Advanced Life Support I and \$770 for Advanced Life Support II. However, the County's focus will be on collecting from insurance companies, not from private citizens. Let me be absolutely clear: no citizen will be denied EMS service because they can't afford it.

Further, the Board has proposed a funding formula recommended by the consultant to boost the Fire/Rescue companies that provide the service. For instance, if a Stone Ridge resident calls 911 and a medic unit from Arcola Company 9 responds, the Arcola Company will receive the bulk of the funds collected from the patient's insurance. Thus, the system will have the added benefit of improving the level of service to the community by ensuring more investment in the companies that serve them.

Board Censures Sterling Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio

While it would be my preference to always bring you good news, I would be remiss if I did not address the recent action that the Board of Supervisors took regarding Sterling District Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio.

As you may be aware, a former aide to Supervisor Delgaudio came forward last fall with accusations that he was using his County funds for political activity, that he was combining the work of his private organization, Public Advocate, with County work, and that he had verbally

abused her. The allegations were referred to the Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney, who recused himself because of party affiliation, and asked the Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney to handle the case.

The Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney convened a Special Grand Jury to hear evidence regarding Supervisor Delgaudio's actions. In all, the Special Grand Jury heard from 31 witnesses and considered 36 pieces of evidence. Along with my colleagues, I appeared before the Special Grand Jury and gave testimony.

In the end, the Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney declined to seek an indictment of Supervisor Delgaudio because she determined that none of the applicable state ethics laws applied to him because he is a part time employee (as are all Supervisors). This revelation has broad implications for just about every local elected body in Virginia, and the General Assembly should take action during their next session to correct this oversight. It is patently ridiculous that virtually no laws actually govern the behavior of Supervisors who are responsible for billions of dollars and govern virtually every aspect of their County. Our Board has already discussed inclusion of changes to the law in our 2014 Legislative Program.

In any event, despite the fact that Supervisor Delgaudio was not indicted, the Special Grand Jury took the highly unusual step of requesting permission from the Chief Judge to issue a report with their findings, which was granted. The resulting report, available [here](#) (see attachment three), details their findings regarding the conduct of Supervisor Delgaudio.

The report outlines a troubling pattern of behavior in which public funds were misused to promote political and private activities. Testimony from Supervisor Delgaudio's former aide was corroborated by testimony from individuals who attended meetings set up as part of Supervisor Delgaudio's fundraising system, all coordinated by his aide, whose salary was paid by taxpayers from his official office. In addition, the report found repeated instances where constituent requests were ignored, and included testimony that Supervisor Delgaudio had instructed his aides to prioritize fundraising over assisting residents.

At our July 17 meeting, Vice Chair Shawn Williams introduced a resolution formally censuring Supervisor Delgaudio, removing him from all standing committees of the Board, and stripping him of all funds for the remainder of his term. Under this motion, funds will be set aside for the Sterling District and allocated by the full Board of Supervisors.

The Board moved to a Committee of the Whole Discussion to allow Supervisor Delgaudio an unlimited amount of time to respond to any and all allegations. He declined to do so, and instead requested that his attorney be allowed to read a statement for the record. Since the statement was readily available online, I downloaded it on my Ipad and suggested that he read it on the record himself. He did not do so.

Ultimately, the Board voted 8-1 to censure Supervisor Delgaudio and remove him from committees, and 6-3 to remove funding. I supported both actions.

In addition, the Board rejected an amendment from Supervisor Delgaudio to set up a three-member ad hoc panel to conduct an inquiry into his actions on a 3-6 vote—I opposed that motion. In my view, it would be impossible and unnecessary for the Board of Supervisors to recreate the thorough review that was undertaken by the Grand Jury, in which witnesses testified under oath with a penalty of perjury. Such a process would be time consuming and a huge distraction, and would ultimately lead us right back to the same place. Supervisor Delgaudio declined to refute any of the allegations against him during the Board’s discussion, so there is no reason to think he would behave any differently in a separate hearing.

Let me emphasize that I did not take these actions—which are the strongest possible in Virginia—lightly. However, my decision came back to a basic principle: citizens must be able to have trust in their government.

This should not be a partisan issue. When there is evidence of wrong-doing, the Board of Supervisors must take action to protect the integrity of our government and of our County. It is my sincere hope that the actions of our Board will help ensure that I will never have to take another vote of this nature again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DMV 2 GO in Dulles South August 7

The DMV2GO Mobile Customer Service Center will be at the Dulles South Public Safety Center (25216 Loudoun County Parkway) on August 7th between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Services provided are as follows: apply for/renew ID card, apply/renew driver’s license, take road and knowledge tests, get picture taken, reinstate driving privileges, apply for Veteran ID card, get a copy of your driving record, obtain vehicle title, plates, decals or transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates, get fishing or hunting licenses, update address/voter registration, or request a PIN for a myDMV account online. All services are handicap accessible.

Small Business Development Center August Programs

The Loudoun County Small Business Development Center is a great resource for new or existing small businesses in the County. They host a variety of educational programs throughout the year. For information on upcoming programs in August visit their website at www.loudounsbdc.org.

South Riding Business Expo and Community Yard Sale

South Riding Proprietary will once again be hosting their Business Expo and Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 7th, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center. For more information on registering or securing yard sale spaces [click here](#).

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